

Vincristine Liposomal

Names	The generic drug name is vincristine liposomal (vin KRIS teen lye po SO mal). The brand name is Marqibo. There may be other names for this medication. Note: Vincristine liposomal is different than vincristine – one cannot be substituted for the other.
How is it Given?	Your medicine will be given by infusion into a vein (intravenous or IV).
Why Is it Used?	Vincristine liposomal is used to treat acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) that has recurred, or that has progressed despite other therapies.
How Does it Work?	<p>Cancer is a group of diseases in which abnormal cells divide (reproduce) without control. Both normal and cancer cells go through a cell cycle of phases - resting, growing, and division.</p> <p>Your chemotherapy (chemo) schedule is based upon your type of cancer, how fast they grow and reproduce, and when in the cell cycle each drug is the most effective. This is why chemo is typically given in cycles.</p> <p>The faster cells are dividing, the more likely it is that chemo will damage/kill them. Chemo, unfortunately, does not know the difference between cancer cells and normal cells that reproduce quickly. This means chemo may affect the cells in bone marrow, hair follicles, and the lining of your digestive tract (mouth, stomach, and intestines). These normal cells will eventually grow back and be healthy. During treatment, however, you may have side effects.</p> <p>Vincristine is a type of plant alkaloid called a <i>vinca alkaloid</i>. It interferes with structures inside the cells that are needed for reproduction. If the cells are unable to divide, they die.</p>

What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?

Tell your doctor if you:

- are allergic to vincristine or have any allergies
- are taking any herbal products, especially St John's wort
- have ever had a condition that affects your nerves
- are pregnant or breastfeeding

This drug can interact with other medications. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Bone marrow depression (decreased red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets) increasing your risk of anemia, infections, and bleeding
- Fatigue, weakness
- Constipation, diarrhea
- Nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, loss of appetite
- Fever
- Neutropenic fever (fever that occurs in a patient with neutropenia – a low white blood cell count)
- Peripheral neuropathy (numbness, tingling, burning sensation, usually in hands and feet)
- Difficulty sleeping (insomnia)

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Drink 2-3 quarts of water every day unless your doctor tells you to limit your fluids. This is even more important on the days before and after you take these medications. This will help flush the medications out and help prevent dehydration and constipation.
- **Low white blood cell count/risk of infection:** To help avoid infections, stay away from crowds in confined spaces and people with colds or other infections. Wash your hands often. Talk to your doctor before you have any vaccinations, such as a flu shot.
- **Low red blood cell count/fatigue:** Take rests during the day, limit your activities, and do an activity at a time of day when you feel a bit more energetic. Learn to ask for and accept help with household and daily chores.

- **Low platelet count/risk of bleeding:** Be careful when handling sharp objects. Avoid rough sports or other situations that could cause bruising or injury. Use an electric razor. Be careful when using a toothbrush or dental floss (Your doctor may recommend other ways to clean your teeth and gums).
- **Constipation:** To help prevent constipation, get out of bed, walk, and get plenty of fiber in your diet from grains, vegetables, fruit, or supplements. Your provider may recommend a stool softener or laxative. If you do not move your bowels in 2-3 days, tell your doctor.
- **Diarrhea:** Loperamide (Imodium®) is available over the counter. Your doctor will tell you if and when to take this medication. Do not take more than 8 tablets (16mg) in a 24-hour period. Call the clinic if not better within 24 hours.
- **Nausea/vomiting:** To help prevent nausea, avoid fried, spicy, and/or fatty foods on the days you receive chemo and for 2-3 days afterwards. Eating small, frequent meals may help. If you feel nauseous, try foods and drinks that are 'easy on the stomach' or made you feel better when you were sick in the past. These generally include bland foods, ginger ale, dry crackers, and toast. Take prescribed anti-nausea medication as soon as you feel nauseous.
- **Fever, aches, pains:** Talk to your health care provider before using any medications or herbal products for any symptom.
- **Peripheral neuropathy:** Monitor your fingers and toes for any decreased sensations or tingling. Report any sensation changes to your doctor. **If you develop peripheral neuropathy:**
 - Stay as active as you can to help keep your muscles working. If you exercise in a gym, tell the instructor that you have peripheral neuropathy and ask for instructions.
 - Foot and hand massages may help relieve stiffness. After the massage, remember to clean the lotions and creams off your hands and feet.
 - Protect your heads and feet, particularly when handling hot items or when weather is severe. Use oven mitts, gloves, socks, and shoes.
 - Have someone check the water temperature before you take a shower, wash dishes, etc. or use a thermometer or a part of your body that is not affected by neuropathy.

- Get rid of throw rugs and other obstacles that can increase your risk of falling or tripping.
- Ask about balance training and/or physical or occupational therapy
- **Mouth care:** To minimize mouth problems, rinse your mouth with a mixture of ½ teaspoon of baking soda in 8 ounces of water after every meal and at bedtime. Brush your teeth and gums often with a soft toothbrush. (Soften it further by running it under warm water). Avoid smoking, alcohol, and mouthwashes that contain alcohol.
- **Skin Care:** Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when you are outdoors, even for a short time. Wear sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and pants. Keep your neck, chest, and back covered. Do not use tanning beds. If you get a rash, keep the area clean and dry, and your doctor right away.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to nearest ER if you have swelling or tingling in your face, mouth, or throat, trouble breathing, wheezing, grey or blue skin color

Call your doctor immediately if you have:

- signs of an allergic reaction: Itching, hives, dizziness, or palpitations.
- signs of infection: **Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher**, chills, cough, sore throat, pain or burning upon urination; redness or tenderness along a vein, at an IV site, or at any other wound
- unusual bruising or bleeding: Bleeding lasts more than 10-15 minutes or that causes dizziness; black or bloody stools; vomit that is bloody or that looks like coffee grounds; blood in your urine or phlegm /mucus, unusually heavy menstrual bleeding, spontaneous bleeding from your gums or nose, or superficial bleeding into the skin that appears as a rash of pinpoint-sized reddish-purple spots (petechiae)
- severe abdominal, muscle cramping, or a change in your normal bowel habits for more than 2 days
- tingling, numbness, and cramping in the legs or arms for longer than a few days; difficulty walking; or vision problems

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Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- nausea that is not relieved by prescribed medication or that prevents you from eating or drinking
- more than 4 episodes of vomiting or diarrhea in 24 hours
- signs of dehydration: thirst, dry mouth, decreased amount of urine/dark urine, tiredness, dizziness
- swelling of feet and ankles
- painful mouth or throat that makes it difficult to eat or drink
- change in your sense of balance

What Else Should I
Know About
Vincristine
Liposomal?

- If you have signs that this medication is leaking into the tissue around the IV site (pain, itching, redness, swelling, blisters, sores), notify your doctor or nurse immediately.
- This medication can stop sperm production in men and interfere with the normal menstrual cycle in women. Do not, however, assume that you cannot get pregnant or father a child while you are taking this medication. Do not get pregnant or father a child during treatment. Both men and women should use a reliable method of birth control to prevent pregnancy. Barrier methods (condoms, diaphragms) are recommended. This drug may have harmful effects on a fetus. Genetic counseling is available for you to discuss the effect of this drug therapy on any future pregnancies.
- Keep all doctor and lab appointments. Exams and tests are important to monitor how this medication is affecting your liver and other organs.
- Do not to drive or operate machinery if you are fatigued or have symptoms of peripheral neuropathy.
- Change positions slowly, particularly when you have been lying down. Move slowly into a sitting position and dangle your legs for a minute or two, then stand.
- Do not use aspirin or any product that has aspirin in it (such as some cold medicines) unless you talk to your doctor first.
- If you would like more information, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.